

Baptist Record

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Volume CIII, Number 4

Stevens Steps Down Early

Radio-TV Exec To Retire

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Paul M. Stevens confirmed reports that he would leave the presidency of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission by publicly announcing his early retirement following several executive sessions of the agency's trustees.

Stevens, commission president and chief executive officer since 1953, will retire Oct. 31, 1979, shortly after his 64th birthday. But, effective immediately, Harold E. Martin, executive vice president, will assume complete administrative and operational authority over the commission. He joined the commission in October 1978 and is former trustee chairman of the agency.

Stevens, who will remain on salary until his retirement, said he will devote the remainder of his time with the Radio and Television Commission "in the critical area of development."

Trustee Chairman Ray Scroggins of Houston said a search committee, headed by Frederick W. Isaacs Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn., is seeking suggestions from Southern Baptists about who the successor should be.

Scroggins, who praised Stevens' work in making the commission into a broadcast leader, said, "Some years ago trustees initiated plans toward providing a retirement policy of approximately 60 percent of his salary at retirement. This retirement policy is

still under study because of his early retirement and will possibly be announced following the October trustees meeting." Stevens salary is \$45,234.

Scroggins told the "Baptist Standard," Texas Baptist newspaper, in an interview following the series of executive sessions by the trustees, that the trustees are opening themselves to "introspective questioning" about the commission's direction. He said the trustees have come "to a new realization of the magnitude of the responsibility of being trustees for an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention and the realization that the trustees must fulfill their responsibility in trust for people who elected them — Southern Baptists, the Southern Baptist Convention, the rank and file membership of various states in our convention."

He said the trustees are dealing with criticisms of the agency and its leadership to explore ways the commission may serve the denomination.

Search Committee
The search committee, besides Isaacs, consists of John E. Hughes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Independence, Mo.; George Miller, member, Miller and Spencer Law Firm, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Jess P. Odom, president, Jess Odom Enterprises Incorporated, North Little Rock, Ark.; and Franklin A. Perry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Laurel, Md. Isaacs is president of Athletic Association Incorporated and sports consultant for Colgate/Palmolive Company, Knoxville.

A search committee had functioned for a period after Stevens told the trustees two years ago that he anticipated retirement. It was reactivated last October. (Continued on page 3)

Preachers Pack The House At Meridian Conference

By Tim Nicholas

Fully 1,100 Mississippi Baptists, with a high concentration of preachers, sat through, sang through and clapped for a wide variety of preaching and Christian music last week in Meridian.

The weather would have provided no excuse for staying away — the temperature reached over 70 — but the house stayed full for virtually every service of the first ever Evangelism-Bible Conference last Monday-Wednesday at First Baptist Church, Meridian.

Stated purpose of the conference, co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School and Evangelism Departments, was to provide inspiration and motivation for ministers and others. Many of the services had an atmosphere of revival, which was a topic of several messages.

C. B. Hogue, evangelism director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, in an attention-getting Tuesday night message, told

the over-packed house of Baptists that "Man cannot produce revival, but man can prepare for it."

He itemized the reasons man must recognize his desperate need for revival: "Because of the spiritual condition of unregenerate man... the loss of testimony in the lives of believers... a rampant lukewarmness in the churches... our lack of compassion for those outside of Christ... (and) the lack of gospel preaching in our pulpits." He added, "If God does not work in revival, he must work in judgment."

The theme of the Christian not being interested in those outside the church walls was resounded by E. V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in the Watts community of Los Angeles, Calif.

Hill said the church now is mostly "the saved taking care of the saved." He said that Christians have to develop "a greater concern about all of the family" of God.

Hill, who received the only standing

ovation of the conference, told the crowd that "God has yet to be excited by the bold venture in Mississippi — it hasn't even strained your imagination, much less God's."

Labeled Bible studies, several sessions of the conference were in reality, sermons. Clyde Francisco, Old Testament professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said that since everyone else was preaching about Good News, he'd talk about bad news.

He said that the bad news is that "all men are lost outside of Jesus Christ." Francisco, with a ready, dry wit, told the group about the first foreign missionary in the Old Testament... "Jezebel, who tried to bring her God into Israel." Francisco said that the Israelites did not do mission work. "Prophets believed the time would

come when all the nations of the earth would worship God," he said.

Francisco explained that Christianity was spread outside of Jerusalem after 70 A.D. when Rome destroyed it and people had to go elsewhere. And in the post-World War II days, Baptists grew in California simply because of economic reasons — Southerners going for work and building churches for themselves.

"What God is searching for," said Francisco, "is a generation of Christians who go of their own accord."

Another featured speaker, John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., said that a "mission impossible" attitude has prevailed for generations concerning winning the world for Jesus.

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Missionary Speakers Named For WMU Meet

Foreign missionaries who will speak at the WMU Convention at First Church, Greenville March 19 - 21 will include Dr. and Mrs. Charles Deever, Ivory Coast; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cox, Ivory Coast; Miss Danny Stampely, Ghana; Miss Emogene Harris, Nigeria; and Mrs. Tom Thurman, Bangladesh.

Mrs. Robert Smira of Jackson will preside at the convention, in her last year as state president. A new president will be elected.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will speak at the BYW banquet Monday night, and on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

The meditation speaker will be Mrs. Ray Gilliland, of Rapid City, S. D., WMU executive director, Northern Plains Convention.

Mrs. Louie Odom of Jackson will direct the congregational music and sing solos.

Church History Workshop Set

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission will be sponsoring a Workshop on Oral History and Church History Writing on Thursday, March 15, 1979, from 10:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. in the Learning Resources Center of the Mississippi College Library in Clinton.

Those interested in learning how to go about recording the history of a church are invited to attend. Information about the workshop has been

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The Cox



The Deever

older Mission Friends to be part of the WMU Convention. It will proffer a missionary puppet theatre, a Bold Mission film, a stewardship drama, and other features. The entire evening's activities will be presented in the Family Life Center and in some other areas of the church building.

The Baptist Young Women Banquet will be held at 5:30 on Monday evening.

Mission Study Cruise Planned

The Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department is sponsoring a seven day Caribbean Mission Study Cruise in June.

Participants will be visiting with Southern Baptist missionaries in the Caribbean and in Venezuela, to learn firsthand about mission work in the area.

The cruise takes place June 23-30, leaving from Jackson and costing \$1.195 per person, double occu-

pancy. The cruise ship will be the Cunard Countess.

The trip will stop at San Juan, Caracas, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Thomas.

Space is limited and the Brotherhood Department must have reservations in by March 15 along with a deposit of \$150. For further information, write Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 354-3704.

A National Survey

Bible-Reading In The U.S.

NASHVILLE (RNS) — A national survey by the interdenominational Christian Bible Society states that 96 per cent of all U.S. homes have at least one Bible. Some 31 per cent of all families said they had at least one member engaged in regular Bible study. However, the survey stated, 56 per cent of Roman Catholics, 26.5 per cent of Protestants, and 54.8 per cent of Jews responded they don't read the Bible at all.

The number of Protestants who don't read the Bible at all ranged from a low of 14.5 per cent of Pentecostals to 33.7 per cent of Presbyterians to a high of 49.5 per cent of Episcopalians.

Conducted by the National Family Opinion, Inc., the survey was carried out among 5,000 families during October 1978. The study was commissioned by the Christian Bible Society to obtain information on Bible reading and study habits, Bible preferences and Bible ownership.

The study indicated that 44.6 per cent of all respondents including the non-church described the Bible as "the inspired word of God and com-

pletely true." Some 27.6 per cent said the Bible is inspired but "may contain factual errors," and 22.1 per cent said "the Bible is an ancient book of history and moral precepts recorded by man."

When asked what Bibles they prefer, the overwhelming first choice of all church people was the King James Version.

Among Catholics, the New American Bible was the first choice, selected by 30.9 per cent, followed by the King James (7.7 per cent). Others included Living Bible (4.8 per cent), Good News (4.2 per cent), Revised Standard (2.2 per cent) and New American Standard (1.2 per cent).

The King James Version was the first choice of United Methodists (35.2). Other preferred versions included The Living Bible (20.5 per cent), the Revised Standard Version (8.6 per cent), and the Good News Bible (6.7 per cent).

Among Presbyterians, the King James Version was the first choice (29.9 per cent), followed by the Living Bible (12.8 per cent), Revised Stan-

dard (13.2 per cent), Good News (7.8 per cent) and American Standard (1.6 per cent).

Roman Catholics were about evenly divided in their beliefs about the Bible: 32 per cent said the Bible was completely true, 33.9 per cent said it was

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The "Popcorn" Pulpit

Every Sunday morning, Bill Rittenhouse, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tupelo, preaches in a drive-in theatre. It's an outreach ministry of the church. For the story, turn to page two.



Evangelists Elect Officers

New officers of the Fellowship of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists are: (kneeling) Sonny Adkins, New Hebron, vice-president; Don Moore, Aberdeen, vice-president; standing from left: Tommy Hudson, pastor, Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson, pastor-advisor; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, Jackson, secretary; and James Fancher, Jackson, president.

Relief Plea Catches Mission Board Short

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — With only \$6,000 in general relief funds, members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board were unprepared for a plea for \$285,000 to assist flood victims in south Brazil, where more than 400 died, 300,000 were evacuated and 100 Baptist churches were damaged or destroyed.

Requests were granted immediately for \$95,000 from hunger funds to assist 1,300 Baptist families who had to evacuate the area. But two other urgent relief requests left only \$6,391 in the general relief account for the Brazil disaster.

At their February meeting, board members redesignated funds from areas of lesser need. They shifted \$32,303 from relief funds in Niger Republic; \$50,000 from reconstruction funds intended for Romania; and another \$32,142 from a continuing relief project in Recife, Brazil; but still had only \$120,836, less than half the amount requested. The funds originally designated for Romania and Recife are to be replaced as funds are made available.

"There's a tremendous need down there, but our general relief fund is depleted," said Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division.

La Paz, Bolivia — The Aymara Indians of Bolivia, a pre-Inca tribe, has formed a missionary association to sponsor its own missionaries to the Navajo Indians of North America. The Aymara tribe of Bolivia, which numbers about one million, has been extremely responsive to the Christian message. Recent reports indicate that about one church has been established each week and the Christian leaders feel that the saturation point has nearly been reached. On learning of the existence of the Navajo Indian tribes of New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Arizona, the Aymara's Christian leaders expressed an interest in sending missionaries to reach them with the gospel. Two families have volunteered to go on that service.



Bush

Study Guides Hot Items At Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has received 40,124 requests for the Home Bible Study Guide since the new radio and television series "At Home with the Bible" premiered in October. President Grady Cothen reported to the trustees.

Cothen said the board received 880 materials requests per working day during the previous week and that more than 9,100 persons have enrolled as "learners" in the program. He said the response to the program, now taking Bible study into homes in more than 1,500 cities and towns via cable and commercial television and radio stations, has far exceeded the expectations of its creators.

The trustees for the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a \$500,000 renovation of the five-story Frost Building, adjacent to the present board complex, to provide an additional 40,000 square feet of office space.

In addition, the trustees at their annual winter meeting took several steps in regards to church training materials. Included were:

—A 16-page addition to the quarterly **Baptist Adults**, effective October 1980, was approved to provide space for additional training plans. The upgrading of the periodical, with an annual circulation of 1.5 million, comes at the time of increased emphasis on all materials used in church training.

—Deletion of the adult training quarterly **Source and Source Resource Kit**. The periodical has lost circulation since 1971 to a current 63,000 per quarter.

Roanoke, Va. (BP) — Virginia Baptist Homes, Inc. is the beneficiary of a bequest that will exceed \$600,000 from the estate of J. Meade Harris of Roanoke. Charles E. Neal, executive director of the homes, said the money is designated and will be used for construction of living accommodations for the aged at a fourth Virginia Baptist Home to be located somewhere in the Roanoke area.

Tupelo Has A "Popcorn Pulpit"

By Tim Nicholas

The announcement goes out over the in-car speaker system, "First time visitors, blink your lights." What? A drive-in theatre that cares? You bet.

Every Sunday morning just before 9 o'clock, cars begin to file into the Lee Drive In Theatre in Tupelo. At the entrance, they are given heaters for their cars and bulletins for First Baptist Church.

Each driver takes a speaker at his or her place in the lot and listens to the church music while waiting for "the show." But it's not a movie they've come for, it's a gospel message, given by Bill Rittenhouse, FBC pastor.

The 30-minute services at the drive-in each Sunday morning are an extension ministry of Tupelo's First Baptist Church. Begun several years ago in the summers by former pastor Bill Simmons, the services were extended to year-round status this past year by Rittenhouse, who has been there two years.

—Deletion of the quarterly **Exploring B**, **Exploring B for Leaders**, and **Exploring B Kit for Leaders**, effective October 1980. Users of this children's quarterly, which has lost circulation to 71,925 per quarter, will be channeled into two other periodicals, **Exploring A** and **Exploring C**.

Other actions taken by the trustees included:

—Authorization of the extension of the mandatory retirement age for board workers to 70. This puts the board in compliance with recent federal statutes.

—Approval of increased retiree benefits in the Medicare supplement group insurance plan from a maximum of \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Church Roll Call Nets Two-Thirds Absentees

RUBY, La. (BP) — Checking attendance is a common practice in Baptist Sunday Schools. But what happens when a pastor takes roll call of the entire membership for a worship service?

D. L. Callender, pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, has done it a number of times. The most recent was a day in January.

"The members were excited. Some were anxious, wondering..." Callender said. "The idea was new here. The day we took roll was a nasty day, cold and raining. But when the roll was finished, we had 102 present and 197 absent."

He said about one-third of the membership was present, one-third lived in the church's vicinity, but was absent and one-third was "AWOL" — whereabouts unknown, statistics he believes are representative of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"This thing of calling roll is very revealing," he said. "Many people sit-

Preachers Pack The House At Meridian Conference

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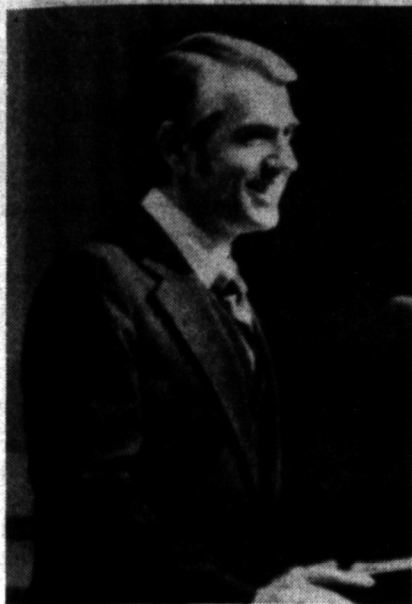
He said that when Jesus gave the Great Commission, fulfilling it was practically impossible for numerical, financial, social, logistical, and legal reasons. Still today, he said, "not many of us believe we are going to win the world to Christ."

Bisagno said there is an immense appetite for spiritual things in the world today, "if the church doesn't rush in with the truth, the devil will rush in with error," he said.

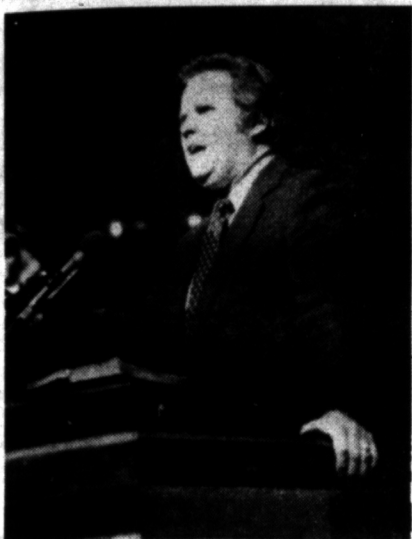
Rus Bush, philosophy of religion professor at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex., outlined the Apostle Paul's methods as worth following in winning one's city, county, and state to Christ.

Bush downplayed the value of the Christian's personal testimony. He said that "a personal testimony exalts you, when you preach about Jesus, you exalt Him."

Bush said that Paul didn't go around telling the people all the evil things they were doing. "He stayed until they ran him out of town, preaching and teaching the Word of God," said Bush, who suggested that the reason the fundamental movement of the turn of the 20th century did not get anywhere was because "they were preaching the right doctrines, but they were blasting against all the evils of the world — people put up their fists and blasted back. Liberals seemed to love everyone, but they didn't have a message," he said.



Davis



Bisagno



Hogue

Bush said that Paul took his message out of the synagogue to the people. Bush told the assembled preachers that they ought to do like Paul and get some help with their administrative duties and "find you a lecture hall and give yourself to a daily ministry of preaching and teaching."

Other conference speakers were George Harrison, Old Testament professor at New Orleans Seminary; and Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

The Three W's

Harrison told the group that hope "is expectation that is grounded on reality." He outlined the Christian duties of walking with God, waiting on God, and working for God.

Davis said that when the disciples asked Jesus for power, he gave them the Lord's Prayer. He added that "if God is our father, it's logical for Him to expect obedience," fellowship, and "to be a chip off the old block."

A number of separate conferences included discussion of some of Baptists' basic doctrines such as that of election, baptism, and the atonement. There was also a conference on preparation for Good News Mississippi revivals led by Ken Carter of the Home Mission Board.

The Four P's

Carter told participants to "pray for more than the sick," in preparation for the revivals. He gave prayer as the first of four "P's" in revival preparation. The others were participation (getting the membership involved), proclamation (through the evangelistic team and personal witnessing, and counseling), and preserving the results ("We have too many churches willing to accept people into the membership, but not into the fellowship," said Carter).

He suggested three manuals which would help in preparation, all available at cost from Roy Collum's office at the Mississippi Baptist Building in Jackson. Revival Planbook for the Local Church (\$1.00); Counseling Guide (25 cents); and Follow Up Manual for New Christians (25 cents). Write Roy Collum, Evangelism Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

(Most any comments about the conference music would be editorial in nature. It was varied, beautiful, and highly spiritual in effect. Perhaps the best way to explain the music would be to show pictures in next week's Baptist Record of many of the people who offered the fine music while they were working.)



Hill



Francisco



Harrison

Summer Youth Sessions At Gulfshore

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 1:00 THE AFTERNOON OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE.

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS WITH THE EVENING MEAL OF THE FIRST DAY AND CONCLUDES WITH BREAKFAST OF THE LAST DAY.

March 1 — Reservations accepted for people within the state.
April 1 — Reservations for people outside the state.

Dates	
May 28 - June 1	
June 1-5	
June 5-9	
June 11-15	
June 15-19	
June 19-23	
June 23-27	

Conference Titles

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
ACHIEVING MY INDEPENDENCE
SEX AND THE STUDENT
WHAT WE BELIEVE

HOW TO LIKE YOURSELF
PRAYER
THE TEEN COMMANDMENTS
CHRISTIAN CHARM COURSE

YOUTH WILL SELECT TWO OF THE CONFERENCES TO ATTEND DURING THE YOUTH SESSIONS

DAILY SCHEDULE
Morning — Conferences and Bible Study
Afternoon — Recreation, free time
Evening — Worship and special features

For Registration information contact:
Frank Simmons, Mgr.
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, MS 39571
For Conference information contact:
Larry Salter or Larry Garner
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

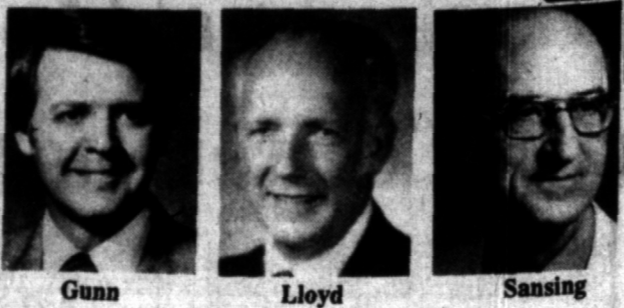


Bill Rittenhouse, pastor of FBC, Tupelo, preaches a short message about "drifting" to the congregation from his booth, insulated from the freezing cold weather.

Baptist Doctrine Preview Seminar

"The Doctrine Of Salvation"

February 26-27
9:30-12:00 Noon



Seminar Leader
Frank Gunn
Frank Gunn

John McCall
Gordon L. Sansing
Raymond Lloyd
John E. Barnes

Frank Gunn
John McCall
Gordon L. Sansing
Raymond Lloyd
John E. Barnes



McCall

February 26
First, McComb
Baptist Associational Center, Brookhaven
(6:30-9:00 - supper meeting)
First, Philadelphia
First, Pontotoc
First, Cleveland
West Laurel

February 27
Baptist Building, Jackson
First, West Point
Hernando
North Winona
First, Gulfport



Barnes

Sponsored by the Church Training Department

January CP Receipts Top Six Million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A single month's receipts to the national Cooperative Program topped \$6 million for the first time ever in January, despite just a 3.8 percent increase over January 1978.

Monthly increases, which had been averaging 11.9 percent since the fiscal year began in October, must average 11.5 percent to reach the \$64 million operating budget and capital needs goals of SBC agencies.

December's contributions of \$6,002,367 pushed the four-month total to \$20,541,133, a 9.4 percent increase over the same period last year.

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, indicated December's fifth Sunday may have warped the figures.

Designated contributions, which had been running 30 percent ahead of last year, fell 11 percent below the January 1978 total, reaching just \$6,590,128. Designated contributions for the year are \$8,211,359, or five percent below last year's total for the same period.

Total contributions for the first four months of the fiscal year, including both designated and Cooperative Program funds, stand at \$28,752,492, an increase of \$1,324,987 or 4.8 percent over the same period last year.

The Missions Task

Father Of Lies

By John Alexander, Director
Stewardship Department

Would you not agree we need to know as much as we possibly can about our enemy? The national government spends billions annually to keep track of our enemies across the world. As Christian warriors we too must understand our adversary who lies in wait, created but superhuman, personally evil, a world power, represented in scripture as the adversary both of God and men.

His names are significant. Out of 83 times in scripture, 70 times he is called either Satan or Devil. Other titles are: Tempter, Beelzebub, Enemy, Evil One, Belial, Adversary, Deceiver, Dragon, Father of Lies, Murderer, and Sinner.

Satan is the enemy of man and active in misleading and cursing humanity because of his intense hatred and opposition to God. Jesus described him (Matt. 13:19-38) as the one whose nature and will are given to evil. His controlling attribute is moral evil.

Satan's predominant motive is to defeat God's plan of grace and to establish and maintain a kingdom of evil, in the seduction and ruin of mankind. Satanic power fills wicked men who mislead other men. The agent of Satan is always a victim.

Satan's power consists principally in his ability to deceive. Satan is fundamentally a liar and his kingdom is built upon lies and deceit. Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

If Satan is the deceiver, how is man then guilty? The Bible explains that man is deceived only because he ceases to love the truth and comes first to love and then to believe a lie (II Thess. 2:9-11).

Men are not tempted by evil, per se, but by a good which can be obtained only at the cost of doing wrong.

Satan's temptation of Jesus throws the clearest possible light upon Satan's methods. Satan emphasized the good, minimized or covered up the evil, thus twisting evil into good. Satan's lie was punctured by the truth and the temptation lost its power.

Satan's devices include human agents (II Cor. 2:11). Satan works through persons and institutions supposed to be on the side of right but really evil. He, as god of this world, is able to present advocates of falsehood in the guise of apostles of truth. (Think of the last liquor referendum!)

Satan is the instigator and fomentor of that spirit of lawlessness which exhibits itself as hatred both of truth and right, and which has and does operate so widely and disastrously in human life.

Satan is a fallen angel and the leader of anarchic forces of wickedness. Although he has great power, all his power lies within the limits of that which is permitted. Satan's power is limited to the cosmic sphere and definite portion of time. His kingdom is doomed. Satan's forces are constantly under divine control.

It is a source of comfort to the serving Christian that Satan is limited, judged, condemned, imprisoned, reserved for judgment from the beginning. The work of Christ has already destroyed the empire of Satan. Although the outcome is certain, the process is slow and tedious. Satan and his followers are doomed to final destruction as a world power.

Although condemned and limited, Satan is roaming, shooting his painful darts at the faithful. He ardently opposes God's most effective works and workers. If we stand in the strength of the Lord, Satan cannot destroy us!

It has been interesting to watch Satan at work to weaken and oppose our efforts to share the gospel with every person in the world. He has used people who should know better. Let us pray that out of the commitment of Southern Baptists God will be glorified and the world evangelized.

Radio-TV Exec To Retire

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tober at Stevens' encouragement, Scroggins said.

Stevens, who said he had been suffering considerable back pain growing out of a World War II injury, said his future activities will "certainly include a continued deep interest in the public affairs of Fort Worth, which has been so good to me and to the Radio and Television Commission." He held out the possibility that he might seek public office in Fort Worth and world seek to organize a coalition of denominational communications leaders to bring pressure against persons and organizations abusing the field of religious broadcasting.

He became chief executive of the then tiny agency in Atlanta in 1953, after the death of its first director, Samuel Lowe. The agency moved to Fort Worth in 1955.

Today the commission staff numbers 125. The Radio and Television Commission building has been built and a new addition — the Paul M. Stevens International Communications Center — was dedicated in 1977.

The commission produces 32 radio and television programs in 10 languages, heard 4,357 times every week on 3,275 stations across the country. In addition, Baptists are represented regularly on ABC, NBC, and CBS television networks.

The annual Abe Lincoln Awards, created by Stevens, has attracted countless broadcast leaders to Fort Worth and has made the Baptist name prominent in the industry. Stevens has created such commission radio programs as MasterControl, Country Crossroads, and Powerline. Powerline, for teenagers, is on 1,048 stations across the country. The commission believes it is the largest syndicated show in the world.

Stevens who grew up in the Jackson-Clinton area and graduated from Clinton High School, has served as pastor of churches in Ada, Okla.; Wharton, Texas; and Bolivar, Texas; associate pastor of churches in Texas and Kentucky; and U. S. Air Force chaplain.

Winner of many civic, religious and broadcast awards, he is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary and attended Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Baylor University, William Jewell College and Mississippi College have all granted him honorary doctorates.

Nigeria Baptist Leader Dies In Car Accident

OGBOMOSHO, Nigeria (BP) — Emanuel A. Dahuni, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, was killed in an automobile accident Jan. 30 near Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

The 61-year-old pastor and educator was called the "single most strategic national leader on the African continent" by John E. Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for West Africa.

Mills praised Dahuni's mature academic leadership. "He presided over unprecedented growth both numerically and financially and led during a time of great stability," Mills said.

Dahuni had been the convention's executive leader for four years. Prior to that he served with the Bible Society of Nigeria, translating the New Testament into his own language of Yoruba. He had also served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Lagos, and president of the Nigerian convention.

London, U.K. — The Evangelical Alliance is projecting an ambitious decade of evangelism for the 1980's, according to Clifford Hill, recently appointed secretary for evangelism and church growth. The Evangelical Alliance program will be that agency's contribution to the Nationwide Initiative in Evangelism proposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury for all of Britain's churches. "Spring '80", a national congress on evangelism, will be the Evangelical Alliance's official launching pad for the decade of outreach. The Alliance cites five specific objectives for the 1980 congress, which is to be held from April 7th to April 13th: to provide input for local churches for all ongoing evangelistic activities; to share what God is doing in different parts of the world; to present churches with the aids for renewal, church growth, and evangelism; to share plans for the future from regions and local areas; and to be an inspirational impetus for a decade of evangelism in the 1980's.

"Good News Alabama" Will Begin Media Blitz

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Alabama Baptists will begin a half million dollar media blitz March 1 as their part in the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust evangelistic effort to proclaim the message of Christ to the world in this century.

Produced and coordinated by the SBC Radio and TV Commission, the awareness campaign will follow the theme "Good News Alabama, God Loves You." It will feature 407 billboards, hundreds of 30-second television spots and thousands of newspaper and radio advertisements.

"Good News Alabama" is a cooperative effort of all Baptists, both black and white, to share the gospel of Christ with every person in the state by 1980, and encourage them to become part of a New Testament fellowship of believers.

Filmed on location, personal testimonies by Baptists from all walks of life will be featured in the advertisements which will also offer a toll-free telephone number for inquirers. Twenty telephone lines will be located in the Baptist state headquarters building in Montgomery and within hours of a call, someone from a Baptist church in the area where the caller lives will make contact, share a personal testimony, and seek to enlist the caller into the membership of a local church.

Task forces have been set up in every county in the state and churches have trained witnessing teams to knock on the door of every home in Alabama, March 1-April 6, sharing the gospel of Christ.

Simultaneous revivals are scheduled throughout the state during the weeks of April 8-22, to be followed by church growth workshops and new work planning for the remainder of 1979.

Jones Association Slates Bible-Evangelism Meet

Ralph Graves, director of evangelism for Jones Association, has announced that the 50 Baptist churches of Jones County will hold a two-day Bible-Evangelism Conference Feb. 26 and 27. The Wildwood church in Laurel will host all sessions.

John Bob Riddle, pastor of Central Park Church, Birmingham, Ala., will teach the book of I Thessalonians.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, will preach evangelistic messages.

Night services will be at 7, and the day session on Feb. 27 will begin at 9:30. Local choirs and musicians will provide special music which will be under direction of Billy Vaughn, associational music director.



Riddle

Wolfe

Church History

(Continued from Page 1)

mailed to each Baptist pastor. A registration fee of \$5.00 per person will cover the cost of the noon meal and of any materials that may be distributed in the workshop.

Program personalities will include A. Ronald Tonks, assistant executive director, Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Jack Gunn, dean of Delta State University and president of the Commission; E. I. Farr, retired professor of education at Mississippi College; C. B. Hamlet, III, chaplain, Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg and member of the Commission; and Ed Akin, member of the faculty of Mississippi College's history department.

Mrs. R. A. McLemore, executive secretary of the Commission, and Edward McMillan, member of the Commission and vice-president for graduate studies and special programs at Mississippi College, are serving as directors of the workshop.

For registration, please address a postcard to the Commission, P. O. Box 51, Clinton, MS 39056, giving name and address and that of anyone else who is planning to attend with you. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the day of the workshop and the registration fee may be paid at that time.

Interfaith Awareness Meets Set

Gulf Coast and Lebanon Baptist Associations have set dates for Interfaith Witness Awareness Conferences in late February.

The Gulf Coast meeting will be Feb. 23-24 at First Baptist Church, Long Beach, 7-9 p.m. on the 23rd, and 9 a.m.-12 noon on the 24th.

The Lebanon meeting will be at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, 7-9 p.m. on the 26th and 27th.

Personnel for the Gulf Coast meeting will include Peter Chen, speaking on world religions, and ministering to or witnessing to Internationals; Mrs. Eunice Bryant, speaking on the Unification Church; Luther C. Newell, speaking on Catholicism; and Gary Leazer, speaking on Mormons, the Worldwide Church of God, and Jehovah's witnesses.

Personnel for the Lebanon meeting will be Chen and Leazer speaking on the religions mentioned above; C. B. Hastings, speaking on Catholicism;

Third Church Building Conference Is Cancelled

Two Church Building Conferences will be held in early March, First Church, Natchez, March 1, and at First, Horn Lake, on March 5.

A third Church Building Conference scheduled for March 6 at Colonial Heights, Jackson, has been cancelled, due to delay in construction of Colonial Heights' new building.

Church Architectural consultant, Dennis Conniff, suggests that the churches of Central Mississippi attend

either the first Church Building Conference on March 1 at First Church, Natchez, in its new building on a new location, or the second Church Building Conference on March 5 at First Church, Horn Lake, in its new building on a new location.

Both of these buildings are designed for multi-use and can well be referred to, Conniff said, as "church buildings of the 21st century."

Criswell Center for Biblical Studies

PRESENTS

SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

MARCH 11-18, 1979

THE YEAR OF THE EXPOSITOR

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church for thirty-five years and chancellor of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies for eight years, preaching twice daily.

Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, Ph.D., Professor of Physics at the University of Texas in El Paso. Ardent spokesman for Creationism.

Dr. Duane Gish, Ph.D., noted biochemist. Spokesman and debater for the Creation Research Society.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Home Mission Study — California . . .

Let's Help Our Neighbors

The mission study series for home missions this year is on California. This is of particular interest to the writer because of having spent two years in that golden state as editor of the *California Southern Baptist*. This mission study is a part of the annual emphasis on home missions that also involves the week of prayer for home missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

California is truly a mission field that is within easy traveling distance of our state. Of the 22 million plus inhabitants of that state, there are probably more who do not profess any sort of religious faith than there are who do. And of those who do, many are of some off-brand type that would not be easily recognizable as religion.

Into this mission area God has placed fewer than 300,000 Southern Baptists. And like Southern Baptists in all other states, many of those are not

very active, if at all. So for sake of comparison, we can say that in Mississippi almost one out of four is at least a somewhat active Southern Baptist, in California the figure would be fewer than one of 100.

And in spite of the name the Pacific Coast state has acquired for being the haven for all sorts of weird activities, it is populated for the most part with genuinely friendly and gentle people. Yet more than half of them do not have a relationship with the Lord. In fact, if the truth were readily attainable, it probably would reveal that only a small percentage of that great population is made up of Christians. Remember, there are fewer than 300,000 Southern Baptists, and Southern Baptists make up one of the larger religious groups out there.

Though California is a large state, third in size behind Alaska and Texas, a great deal of its area is hostile as far

as habitation is concerned. Much of the terrain is mountainous or desert, and in those areas the population is sparse. Most of the people live in the great cities. The Los Angeles metropolitan area has in excess of eight million, or almost half of the population of the entire state.

California has some of the most beautiful scenery of the world, and it is a delightful place to spend a vacation. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are gorgeous. In them are found such beauty spots as Yosemite National Park, Kings Canyon National Park (my favorite), and Sequoia National Park. Also Mt. Whitney, once the tallest peak in the United States at more than 14,000 feet, is in this range. Nearby is Death Valley, the lowest point in the nation.

The Monterey Peninsula is a favorite spot for tourists and Californians, and San Diego is one of the world's

beautiful cities. San Francisco is a fascinating place for visitors.

In this beautiful land Baptists are battling hard to turn back the efforts of Satan. Probably as much or more money is spent on home missions work in California as anywhere else. It is a very needy state as far as a Christian witness is concerned.

And home missions work is needed in our other great cities across the nation, in areas where congregations cannot support a pastor in sparsely populated states, and even in Mississippi.

This is a call to enter into the mission study, participate in the week of prayer, and give generously to the Annie Armstrong offering. Our nation needs the Christian message, our neighbors are lost, and the Great Commission applies to them as well as those overseas.

Let's help them. — DTM



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Deepen Your Prayer Life

"Read Mark 11:22 and 23," David Gomes said. The enthusiastic Brazilian Christian stood by my desk pointing to the verses in his Bible. "Have faith in God! He hears our prayers!"

I thought, "My GAs believe when they pray, because they trust in their heavenly Father and rely on his love and power, and I wondered how I could deepen my own prayer life. I began a list of specific ways:

1. Guard a quiet time to be alone with God, a time for thanksgiving, adoration, and confession, as well as supplication. Every morning is better — don't wait until the day is over to tell God your problems.

(While Carol Simon was a missionary in Taiwan, she spent four to six hours a day in prayer and Bible reading. "The more time I spent in prayer, the more time I seemed to have for other things," she said. "I began to feel God's power in my family life and in my work as never before.")

2. Seek the Lord in occasional longer periods of time. (If Jesus needed an entire night in prayer, much more do I.) Take a day or weekend to go away to pray and think.

3. Pray with others: Participate with other adults in the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 4-11. Attend prayer retreats. Pray with your family and other prayer partners.

4. Keep a written list of missionaries and others for whom to pray during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and other times.

5. Try writing down prayers, such as: "Lord, teach me to be a cheerful giver. Guide my hand when I write the check for my Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

6. Pray always that God's will may be done. Read the Bible regularly, for the Holy Spirit speaks and reveals his will often through his Word (1 Cor.

2:9-10). Jesus said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it" (John 15:7).

7. Pray without ceasing. Use every situation as an opportunity to talk with God. Late one Saturday night I asked the Lord to help me finish writing this article. He was working on the answer even before I thought to ask him. That same day my friend Mrs. Ruth Street had invited me to visit First Church, Clinton, to hear Pat Carter, missionary to Mexico.

Next morning, Dr. Carter said (as if directly to me), "I want to talk about your prayers for missionaries. Paul mentioned six things I'd like you to remember when you are praying for us." I wrote down the list, for reference during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions:

- (1) Pray that missionaries may be accepted by the people in the places where they are sent. (2) Pray that the missionaries may communicate the gospel effectively, particularly when they must speak in other languages.

- (3) Pray that they may enter through open doors and that they may know God's will for them in doing the specific tasks God wants them to do. (4) Pray that they may be bold. (5) Pray that they may have God's protection. (6) Pray that their work may prosper, and that they may have the power of God as they proclaim his message.

Dr. Carter suggested, "Choose one missionary or mission project and make that person or project your special object of prayer every day."

God is a living God who hears our smallest petition.

(By Anne W. McWilliams, reprinted from *Awake*, Jan.-March, 1979, used by permission.)

Life After Retirement . . .

10 Per Cent Participation Needed

The Annuity Board has more than 24,000 ministers and church and agency employees participating in its Plan A. This is the original basic annuity plan, and it is based on a salary of \$4,000. This, of course, will not provide nearly enough annuity to live much above poverty, if any about it, at today's prices.

The original Annuity Board plan was for the church and/or the participant to pay 10 per cent of his salary for an annuity. This concept has not changed. In order to provide anything like a decent living after retirement, the participant needs to have an annuity program that is putting 10 per cent of

his salary into the program.

Churches, if this is not the case with your staff people, it needs to be looked into. The Annuity Board doesn't exist to take money from the churches and the ministers. Its purpose is to provide a livelihood for those ministers after retirement. It can't do its job unless

the ministers participate.

If you need help in determining what is available and what you can do about it, get in touch with Bill Sellers at the Baptist Building. He is in the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department. The phone number is (601) 354-3704.

Guest Opinion . . .

An Afternoon With Elton Trueblood

By Martha Nelson Pelahatchie

It was a brief notice, obscure among announcements of sermon titles, music programs and ministerial meetings.

Elton Trueblood! In Mississippi! For years I'd wanted to meet this great Quaker philosopher and author.

My husband and I were unable to attend the day-long program planned by the young pastor of St. Marks United Methodist Church, but we were the first to arrive for the 4 p.m. session for church leaders, open to the public.

Trueblood was autographing in the small meeting room of the mobile unit behind St. Mark's lovely new building. "I want you to sit right here," he greeted us warmly, motioning to chairs scarcely an arm's reach away.

Sitting at the feet, so to speak, of this internationally acclaimed Christian was an exhilarating experience. He has so deeply affected the course of my life, from our first meeting in *The Recovery of Family Life* back in the 1950's to our unforgettable spirit-to-spirit encounter as he and Kenneth Chafin dialogued at the 1969 WMU Convention in New Orleans. My smoldering gift was fanned to a flame by his remarks, and I walked away with the Eureka feeling that a book had been conceived within me. Sure enough, some nine months later my manuscript lay on an editor's desk, awaiting publication.

Dr. Trueblood taught his small class of Christian workers that Sunday afternoon in Mississippi by both precept and example. He emphasized discipline, of course. He was not well; in fact, he had had to cut short his morning address and excuse himself from the service.

"One of only three times in my life I've been ill!" he declared. He had left off lunch, gone to his room and stayed

in bed three hours. "But here I am! I just said to myself, 'Of course I'm going to the afternoon meeting! You know, it's a whole lot more important to have Christian fellowship than to be comfortable. We are not called to be comfortable. We must be disciplined, determined that 'when the gathered fellowship is in being, I will be with them.'"

He spoke briefly of the seven disciples of the Yokefellow Movement. About the discipline of prayer, he said, "We need to get away from the merely general in prayer. I myself pray on awaking each morning, first for the day, then for persons with special needs, and then for myself."

About the discipline of scripture: "It's a sacrilege the way some Christians read the Bible, letting it fall haphazardly to a passage and calling that Bible study. God did not write his Book that way! Read it with pen in hand," he advised. "A book you do not mark is not really yours. Date what you read each day, noting where you are at the time. I find this brings to mind again and again the joy of experiences such as these."

About the discipline of worship, he said, "I need public worship because I am not good. We need one another. One another is like a precious thread running throughout the New Testament, binding it together." The words had a new and lovely sound as he spoke them. "More and more I realize that one cannot be a Christian alone."

Of the discipline of time and money: "Your date book and your check book tell more about your character than anything else."

And the discipline of work: "Whatever your work, if you are a Christian, you must make it a ministry."

Strongly emphasizing the seventh discipline, the need for serious study among Christians, he insisted, "You have to be a student. You have to outlearn the world." I was relieved that he did not check on my personal knowledge of the religious classics he recommends.

Summarizing the necessity for discipline, he reminded his audience, "Very little comes by hit-and-miss in this world."

As might be expected, he talked also of "team." He believes the most beautiful words in the New Testament to be "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me . . ."

Turning to one couple, he asked whether one walked in the other's shadow and was obviously delighted when the husband responded, "Oh, no, we walk side by side."

"Then you're a team — yokefellow!" he rejoiced. "Christ's clearest call to commitment is the call to be on a team."

The Truebloods themselves constitute just such a team. At one point, Mrs. Trueblood interrupted her husband with "It's time now for the Fosdick story."

Some thought she was signalling the hour but soon discovered she was

merely reminding her husband of an amusing anecdote, perfect for making his point.

Dr. Trueblood was 78 in 1978. Asked if he has retired, he replies: "Retired! You can retire from a job but not from a commitment!"

Proof that he isn't coddling himself in his later years, he and his wife had left vacationing on the Gulf Coast to drive over a hundred miles to meet with this small congregation on a January Sunday.

"If I follow my mother's pattern — she lived to be 101 — I may have 23 years left. No, I have no intention of retiring. Time is extremely precious, far more valuable the older you get."

"Then may we expect 23 more

Leadership Of The Lord

Editor:

I ask your consideration for publishing the following article in your, or should I say our, *Baptist Record*. I would like to use your media to express my thanks first to God and then to my congregation for eight wonderful years.

Eight Wonderful Years

In December 1970 I became pastor of Wiggins Baptist Church in Leake Association. The church is located 18 miles from where I was born and reared. When I first preached for the people I never really gave too much consideration to becoming their pastor. I had just resigned Chunky Church in the Newton Association and was still undecided as to what the Lord wanted me to do. When the pulpit committee asked if I would accept the call to the church, I felt very sure it was the Lord's will because I had prayed and so had the church family. I believe both the church and I were following the Lord's will.

Realizing that we must be led by His will in all we attempt to do has been the greatest contributing factor in eight wonderful years. Love, forgiveness and cooperation have been the other contributing factors.

Love is taught in the Bible to be a powerful experience in the Christian's life. Love is the force that holds men together. The people of our fellowship say "I love" and show their love by doing many different things in His wonderful name.

Forgiveness is an absolute in every believer's life. There is a real spirit of forgiveness among us. We have learned that no one on earth is perfect and that most of us have walked in unpleasing paths. We are learning that being able to forgive not only pleases God, but it keeps our relationship with others good.

Cooperation is always a strong factor in all worthwhile projects. Be willing to give and take and recognizing that we aren't always right about everything has helped us immeasurably.

books?" my husband asked quickly.

This author of some 30 books replied, "No, my autobiography, *While It Is Day*, is my final book. I no longer will minister by addition. My remaining years will be spent in the ministry of multiplication, inspiring others, helping others, reaching many others through them." And he mentioned as an example one of his students, Elizabeth Loza Newby, and the audience she has reached through her book, *Migrant with Hope*.

Dr. Elton Trueblood firmly believes that motivating a small work force to study and to share what the church is really about is never time wasted.

And he practices what he preaches.

Letters To The Editor

We believe many of our sister churches could find some things lacking if a closer study were made of the attitudes of the membership. It certainly helps to study our guidelines regularly as Christians.

The years 1970-1978 have been blessed years. Each year we have experienced spiritual, physical and material growth. The past year was the greatest. The Lord gave us 16 additions; 14 came by profession of faith. We praise our Lord for all of these wonderful years. We continue to pray for His leadership every day realizing we aren't perfect yet.

Carlton Jones, Pastor
Wiggins Baptist Church
Carthage

J. D. Walker Lauded

Editor:

This is my first letter to write, but have had an urging within me for some time to do so.

Bro. J. D. Walker, a retired pastor, moved to Saltillo several years ago. He had been in this area of Mississippi for a long time, thus it was easy for him to be known within the Lee County Baptist Association. We rejoiced because we felt we had another man of God with us.

Since his coming he has been a friend, counselor and helper to many. He found his place within the First Baptist Church of Saltillo and has been faithful to the work. He has served as interim pastor and supply pastor in many churches in our association and area. Some of the churches wherein he has served as interim have been greatly blessed by his spirit, messages and guidance. I have observed these principles of his work that I deeply appreciate.

1. He preaches the Word.
2. He does not try to tell the churches what to do.
3. After the interim relationship is ended he does not interfere in the church's business. He's friendly and helpful to the church, but is not attached nor does he try to hold on to any

group within the church.

4. I find him willing to work with all the churches when he is needed.

This is a great man of God in our midst.

W. Harold Anderson
Director of Missions
Lee Association

Thanks For Suits

Editor:

We are filled with gratitude toward the Baptist men of Mississippi for providing new suits for our pastors in Montana and North Dakota. Through the years Mississippi Baptists have made many unselfish expressions of love to our pastors and churches all across Northern Plains Baptist Convention. The summer missionaries that you have sent in the past have always been a blessing to us, also.

I know that you are aware that our work is made easier by the unselfish contributions that Baptist Conventions like yours makes to pioneer areas. You have graciously contributed money, church buildings, manpower, and prayer, therefore you have a great part in every success that is made in this mission area.

C. C. Billingsley, Jr.
Northern Plains Baptist Convention

Reflections Of The Past

Dear Friends,

Just recently, I have recalled a long ago association with the *Baptist Record* along with my grandfather, G. D. Collums, of Pitts, (later) Houlika, Miss., who was a subscriber to the *Baptist Record* in the 1890's - 1900's. He lived to be over 70 years old. I am his oldest grandchild and was 91 years old Nov. 1, 1978.

At the "Women's Retreat" at Garaway in September, 1978, I was given special recognition as being the oldest woman in this group of 200 women. My picture was taken and later a special feature was written up in the first edition of the Baptist Women's periodical, "Alongside."

Today two nice-size pictures of me came in the mail, and I also have a copy of "Alongside." Now, I am writing to thank the ones responsible for all this kindness to me. I do appreciate it. My real pastime and joy now is attending all the church services possible and writing cards and letter of love and sympathy to friends and loved ones.

Mrs. Dessie Evans
Coffeville

(NOTE: The story about Mrs. Evans was reprinted in the Jan. 11 Baptist Record.)

Book Reviews

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PONTIUS PILATE by James R. Mills (Fleming H. Revell, 152 pp., \$6.95) What would it be like to stumble upon a record of Jesus' life and death written by Pontius Pilate, the man who turned Him over to the mob? In this new book James R. Mills, presents Pilate's side of the crucifixion story, told in the form of a novel. The author, who has been a member of the California Legislature since 1960, has drawn on Old and New Testaments, the works of Josephus, and on various biblical scholars for the information he has here compiled. It is an interesting book; the

narrative is reasonable and absorbing.

ACTS, AN EXPOSITION, by W. A. Criswell; Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.; 285 pages; \$9.95.

This is the beginning of a multi-volume work on Acts by the author. This first volume covers Chapters One through Eight. The author declares that Acts is an outline of the program of the Lord for His followers, and he shows how Luke followed that outline as he wrote Acts.

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Randy McGee of East McComb Church was named 1978 R.A. of the Year in Pike Association. Randy is a member of the Archie Dunaway R.A. Pioneer Chapter. Johnny White is his counselor. Randy is a junior at McComb High School.

Roscoe Wentworth of Pascagoula and Maurice Clayton of Jackson have returned home after taking part in a 3-day meeting in San Bernardino, Calif., of more than 150 leading evangelical pastors from throughout the United States and Canada. Clayton is pastor of Hillcrest Church. Wentworth is pastor of Eastlawn Church. He is also president of the Jackson County Baptist Pastors Conference. The conference grew out of conversations between Buckner Fanning, pastor of Trinity Church, San Antonio, Texas, and Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ International, an interdenominational Christian organization. Trinity Baptist Church and Campus Crusade for Christ were co-hosts for the event, which was held at Campus Crusade headquarters at San Bernardino.

Keynote speaker for the conference was Charles H. Malik, professor emeritus of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, former president of the United Nations General Assembly, and internationally known Christian lay leader.

Sanford Beckett, associate minister at University Baptist, Hattiesburg, has an article in the spring issue of Search entitled, "Ministering to Nonresident Church Members." The article describes a ministry started in 1975 for University Baptist's church members as they prepare to move from and shortly after they move from the local community. The ministry is described as a front-door approach to the problem of the non-resident church member.

Claypool Lectures At Yale

John R. Claypool, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson, presented the Lyman Beecher Lectures on the Divinity School of Yale University, New Haven, Conn., Feb. 13-15.

The lectures, given since 1871, are the oldest continuing series on preaching in the country. The plans originated in the mind of Henry Ward Beecher, of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, and were made possible by Henry N. Sage, a member of the same church. They were named in honor of the originator's father, Lyman Beecher.

The first lectures were given by Henry Ward Beecher in 1871 and have been delivered each year through the 107 year period, with the exception of four widely separated years. All but a few volumes of the series have been published.

Pittsburgh Steeler Will Speak At MC's Blue-Gold Day Banquet

Rocky Bleier, runningback of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, will be the featured speaker at the Mississippi College Blue-Gold Day banquet set for 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3, on campus.



Pictured is Deacon Tommy Darsey presenting his pastor, John Hopper, with a certificate of appreciation. The occasion was "Pastor Appreciation Day" which was observed on the pastor's seventh anniversary at South Side Baptist Church in Meridian. The pastor and his family were seated in reserved seats with the entire service being dedicated to him. Mrs. Janet Watson witnessed as to what her pastor meant to her in time of need. Deacon R. L. Talbert, speaking on behalf of the entire church family, spoke on sharing in ministry with his pastor. Special music was presented by the choir. The message was brought by Lowrey Compere, past president of Clarke College, after which Hopper was presented with a love offering. The pastor responded with rededication of his life to God and his pastorate. The service was climaxed with the honored and his family and Compere as guests at a luncheon. Hosts and hostesses were Deacons Tommy Darsey and W. A. Barber and their wives.

Shell Donates \$2,000 To MC

CLINTON — For the 20th time Mississippi College has been invited to participate in the Shell Assists program sponsored by the Shell Companies Foundation, Inc., with receipt of a \$2,000 donation.

The donation, to be used for four \$500 grants as specified by Shell, was received by Lewis Nobles, president of the College.

The purpose of the Assists is to provide support for general institutional needs, to strengthen the faculty, and to help maintain a representative distribution of the student body.

Gallman Church Will Dedicate Education Annex

On Sunday, March 4, 1979, Gallman Baptist Church will have a Dedication Service for the new educational annex of their church. The new addition adds twelve hundred square feet of floor space to the existing building. This includes four classrooms, a nursery, bath, and storage closet. It is carpeted throughout, except for the bath and hall, and has central heat and central air. The entire frame church has been bricked and the Fellowship Hall has been enlarged.

The speaker for the 11:00 a.m. Dedication Service will be Jerry Wheeler of Baton Rouge, La. Johnny Johns of Forest, Miss. will be in charge of the music for the day. Both men are former members of the Gallman Church. The 1:30 p.m. afternoon service will be under the direction of Charles E. Abbey, pastor of the church for the past three years.

William J. Purdue, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn., has been named Director of the newly-formed Bible School which will operate on the Carson-Newman College campus, Jefferson City, Tenn. The veteran minister will assume his new duties May 1. The Bible School which has been under study for almost two-years will open its doors next fall. The School will offer a diploma rather than a degree; it will be a separate entity from Carson-Newman.

Daniel B. McGee, associate professor of religion at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., will lead a special conference on "The Bible and Christian Ethics" during Bible Preaching Week at Ridgecrest Conference Center, June 30 - July 6. The week-long conference is sponsored annually by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. To register, a deposit of \$30 should be sent to the conference center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N. C. 28770.

Jones Resigns

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Peter Rhea Jones has resigned as associate professor of New Testament Interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

Jones will succeed William V. Lancaster, who resigned in July to accept a position with the Georgia Pastoral Care Association in Atlanta. Jones will continue his teaching responsibilities with Southern through the spring semester.

A native of Dyersburg, Tenn., the 41-year-old Jones received a bachelor of arts degree from Union University, a master of arts degree from the University of Mississippi, bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary, and a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He completed one year of post doctoral work at Cambridge University in England.

Jones is married to Ellen Francis Miles of Dresden, Tenn. Mrs. Jones, also a graduate of Union University, has taught seminary wives in the evening school for several years. The couple has three children, Peter Rhea Jr., Heather Miles and Ramsey Poynter.

Bible-Reading

(Continued from Page 1)

inspired but may contain some factual errors, 30.4 per cent said it was a history-moral precepts book.

Among Presbyterians, 36.2 per cent said the Bible may contain factual errors, 35.2 per cent said it was completely true, 25.5 per cent said it was a history/moral precepts book. Among United Methodists, 39.4 per cent said the Bible is completely true, 33.4 said it may contain factual errors, 23.5 per cent said it was a history-moral precepts book.

The Christian Bible Society is a public foundation here with the stated purpose of promoting the reading and study of the Bible through research, public media and church programming. Details on the national survey may be obtained from The Christian Bible Society, Box 17251, Kermit and Vultee, Nashville, Tenn., 37217.

Revival Dates

Parkhill Church, Jackson: Feb. 25-March 4; James Fancher, Jackson, evangelist; music by Richard Sullivan, music director of Parkhill Church; services at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. on each Sunday; and at 7:30 p.m. during the week; Joe Stovall, pastor.

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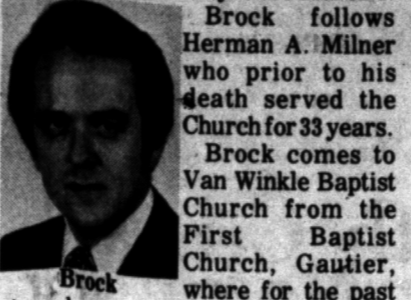
FOR SALE: 32 pews — like new — used 3 years — Colonial design — bronze gold cushions, 18 feet long, available April — May 1979. Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, MS. Call 956-5000 between 8:30 - 4:30.

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FOR SALE: Choir Robes. Royal blue with gold or white reversible collars — 34 at \$10.00 each. Burgundy with white collars — 42 at \$8.00 each. Call 839-2433 or 939-3719. Eastside Baptist Church, 3464 Patterson Dr., Pearl, MS.

Staff Changes

Van Winkle Baptist Church has called John G. Brock to be their pastor. He begins his ministry there March 1.



Brock follows Herman A. Milner who prior to his death served the Church for 33 years. Brock comes to Van Winkle Baptist Church from the First Baptist Church, Gautier, where for the past six and one-half years he has been pastor. During these years, growth has been experienced in every area of church life. He served in several positions on both the state and association level.

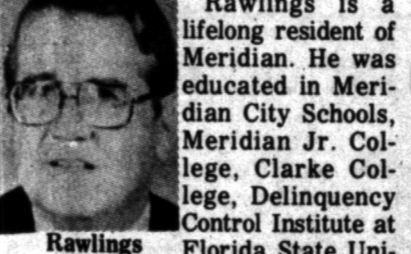
In coming to Jackson, Brock is returning to his hometown where he graduated from Central High School. He also is a graduate of Mississippi College and the New Orleans Seminary.

He was baptized at the Westwood Baptist Church and ordained to preach by the Emmanuel Baptist Church, both of Jackson.

He is married to the former Katherine Tullis of Pearl. They have two children, Johnny and Jana.

The church family extends a very cordial invitation for everyone to come and worship with them and welcome Brock and his family on their first Sunday, March 4, 1979.

Calvary Church, Meridian, has called James C. Rawlings as assistant pastor and director of educational activity.

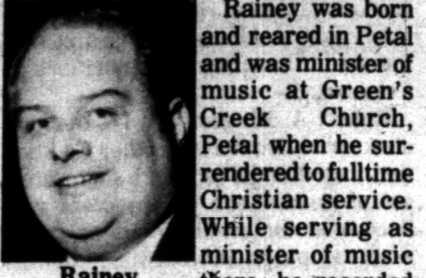


Rawlings is a lifelong resident of Meridian. He was educated in Meridian City Schools, Meridian Jr. College, Clarke College, Delinquency Control Institute at Florida State University and is presently enrolled in Continuing Education at Mississippi State University, Meridian Branch. He retired from the Meridian Police Department with 21 years of service. In World War II he served three years in the Navy, and in the Korean conflict he served in the Marine Corp.

Calvary licensed him to preach on

May 25, 1958 and on February 3, 1959 he was ordained. He was called to become mission pastor of the Lauderdale Baptist Mission sponsored by First Church, Meridian and provided leadership until the mission became organized into a church. During this time they went through a building program. Rawlings is employed by the State Department of Corrections and is a Field Officer in the 10th District. He will begin his new ministry March 1. Otis Seale is pastor.

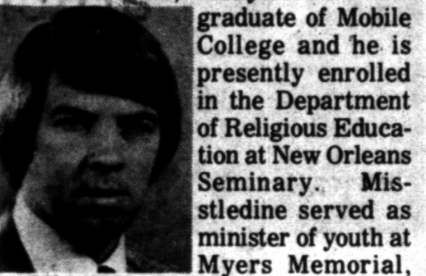
W. C. Rainey, Jr. began duties as fulltime minister of music at Crestview Church, Petal, on Feb. 4.



Rainey was born and reared in Petal and was minister of music at Green's Creek Church, Petal when he surrendered to fulltime Christian service. While serving as minister of music there, he recorded an album, "One Day At A Time." He enrolled as a student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla. While a student there he was minister of music at Carlisle Church, Panama City, Fla., and at the Jakin Church, Jakin, Ga.

He is married to the former Janell Dawsey. They have four children and two grandchildren. They now live at Route 8, Hattiesburg. Raymond Parkin is pastor of Crestview.

Randy Mistledine has recently been called as minister of youth by New Palestine, Picayune. He is a graduate of Mobile College and he is presently enrolled in the Department of Religious Education at New Orleans Seminary.



Mistledine served as minister of youth at Myers Memorial, Mobile, AL, prior to his ministry at New Palestine. He and his wife, Becky, are natives of Alabama, and Becky's father, Billy E. Hogue, is pastor of Grandview Church, Dothan, AL.

Schuyler Batson, Jr., has been called as minister of music by New Palestine, Picayune. He is a graduate of Louisiana College and he is presently enrolled in the Department of Church Music at New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Debby, come to New Palestine from Riverview Church, Batson, Alexandria, La. Batson's father, Schuyler Batson, Sr., is associate pastor of FBC Jackson.

Innocence finds not near so much protection as guilt. — La Rochefoucauld

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"One Fellowship, One Faith, One Focus" Is Demonstrated Asian Baptist Reality

HYDERABAD, India — A multi-colored shanyama (tent) stretched 50 yards across and 63 yards long, and fluttered about twice a man's height above a school campus in the center of Hyderabad, capital city of Andhra Pradesh, India. Colored lights on its facade spelled out the word "Welcome" in both Telugu and English.

The occasion was the first Asian Baptist Congress, and some 6,000 persons from 35 nations had come for a week-long program.

From Monday through Sunday, January 8-14, the mass of Asian people mingled in fellowship under the shanyama and along the streets of the host city. Morning and afternoon each day they met in group discussions and each evening they sang in praise of God, listened to Asian choirs and heard an outstanding array of Asian and American speakers. The congress theme was "One Faith, One Fellowship, One Focus."

First Gathering
Delegates in their traditional national dress presented a colorful contrast to the attire of western visitors. The broad array of color and style accentuated both the diversity of the gathered people and the significance of the fellowship of the meeting — the first such continental gathering ever in Asian history.

"This fellowship among Baptists is spiritually generated and spiritually conditioned," declared W. G. Wickramasinghe of Sri Lanka, the Asian Baptist Fellowship president. "It is not something we have accomplished by our own good works, but what God has accomplished through his people. Our faith and our fellowship are geared to God's great purpose to reach out to men and women for Christ. May we be endowed with power from on high to focus upon Asia as our home and our responsibility."

As president of the ABF, Wickramasinghe was speaking for 1.6 million members of 13,292 Baptist churches throughout Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

Alan Prior
The meeting in the twin cities of Hyderabad/Secunderabad had been arranged primarily through the dreams and good work of Alan C. Prior, an Australian who serves voluntarily as secretary of ABF and associate secretary of the BWA.

People coming to the meeting traveled by foot, by bus, and even by chartered train. One train became disabled enroute, arriving three days late. A happier situation however was

the special train from Nagaland, which parked in Hyderabad for the duration of the congress, serving as hostelry.

Channa Reddy, chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and a Hindu, used his welcome address as an occasion to stress the need for creating godliness

all over the world for the welfare of humanity. "As humans who are the creation of God it is necessary for everybody to do something good for humanity," he said.

Inspirational speakers during the week included President and Mrs. David Y. K. Wong of the Baptist World

Alliance, Geoffrey Blackburn of Australia, Lewis Drummond of the USA, W. A. Jones of the USA, Dr. Wickramasinghe and Dr. Goulding.

In business sessions, congress delegates re-elected Dr. Prior as secretary, and named Johnny de la Fuente of Iloilo City, the Philippines, as their new president.

Child Health Crusade Records One Millionth Immunization

GRENADA, West Indies — A crusade aimed at ridding the world of six major childhood diseases passed the one million immunization mark on February 1.

Robert A. Hingson, M. D., medical director of Brother's Brother Foundation, said that the millionth shot from a set of needle-less jet injectors was fired near the conclusion of an intensive campaign that in nine months

"reached 80 per cent of the target population of this Caribbean island."

There has not been a single new case of measles, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, typhoid, or whooping cough in Grenada since last June 17.

The total of one million shots includes 350,000 in Grenada and 650,000 in Liberia, a West African nation where the program began in July 1978 and will continue until July 1979.

An estimated six billion shots will be required worldwide to fully protect the 800 million infants born annually.

Brother's Brother Foundation is working in partnership with the Baptist World Alliance, which seeks to raise \$1 million seed money by mid 1980, and the United Nations Children Fund and Rotary International. The program is in cooperation with the Expanded Program of Immunization initiated by the World Health Organization for the Year of the Child (1979) and the decade of the 1980's.

The projects in Grenada and Liberia are in cooperation with national health ministries of the two countries. Local medical personnel have been trained to continue immunization of new born children and meet other needs in preventive medicine.



Tallahoma Is Building

Tallahoma Church of Jones County had ground breaking for its first building on Saturday, Jan. 20. According to N. R. Thornton, pastor, this church was begun in August of 1975 meeting in a rented store building on Highway 15 North. It has been meeting in temporary facilities since that time. At present the church is using two house trailers for its education program and worship services.

The new building will be of brick construction and will provide adequately for more than 200 in worship. The work will be done largely by the men of the church. Pictured above at the ground breaking are, left to right: Johnny Burnette, Maurice Flowers, director of missions, N. R. Thornton, pastor, J. P. DeLoach, Senator Charles Pickering, and Danny Thornton.

Devotional "The Sower"

By David Grant, Pastor, Broadmoor, Jackson
Luke 8:4-15

One can identify with this passage of scripture according to background. Those of us who had the privilege of living and working on a farm can understand the thought better than those who lived elsewhere. However, in this devotion, attention will be directed to that with which all of us can identify. This shall be done by recognizing the various emphases our Lord gave in the parable.



Grant

It will also be noticed that throughout the parable the same person is doing the sowing. This is not to demonstrate one's skills but the Word. In the parable, it is Jesus that does the sowing. The modern application would be anyone who preaches or teaches the gospel. Any congregation would have similar hearers as the ones described in the parable.

II. The second emphasis is placed on the hearing of the Word. All through the parable, our Lord emphasizes the responsibility of hearing. He describes four types.

One type is that described by the seed falling on a trodden path (verses 5 and 12). In this section of the parable, we have the plan of salvation in a nutshell. It is hearing, believing, and being saved. This group of people hear with their physical ear, but the devil takes the truth away.

Another type is that which falls on shallow soil (verses 6 and 13). Shallow soil is that which has a rock pan close to the top. There is no depth to it. The plant sprouts quickly and then dies. This applies to those who receive the Word with emotional and superficial enthusiasm. It does not penetrate. It has no tap root. When outside temptations come, there is no ability to resist.

Still another type soil is illustrated by that occupied by foreign plants (verses 7 and 14). These people hear the Word and it appears that everything is great. Then internal opposition arises, such as pleasure, guilt, etc., and destroys its fruitfulness.

The last soil mentioned is the good (verses 8 and 15). This is the proper way to hear and respond. Those who hear the Word of God in this fashion produce fruit. This is what our Lord wants in us.

CONCLUSION: The heart of the parable is found in verse 8, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," and in verse 18, "take care how you hear."

Just For The Record

Turkey Creek Church, Calhoun County, held a note-burning service at the 11 a.m. worship hour on Sunday, Feb. 11. The note was for money borrowed two years ago to build an education-fellowship room, which was added to the church building.

Following the note burning service, the pastor, Sam Higdon, was honored with a surprise "Pastor Appreciation-Day" gift from the congregation. Lunch was served and there was singing during the afternoon by the Valley Echoes of Water Valley.

Locust Street Church, McComb, began a Children's Church in November, 1978, with 57 volunteer workers. Four workers lead each Sunday, and each four lead once a quarter. The church has started a clothes closet for the needy and plans to open a

church library soon, according to Thomas Wicker, pastor. He adds that potential contributors of books or clothes may contact the church at 684-4430, or Mrs. Modena Bowman at 684-3521.

The Youth of Hamilton Church (Monroe Association) held a Valentine Fellowship, Friday night, Feb. 9, in the fellowship hall of the church. The theme was "Sharing Christian Love."

Victor Bonner Jr., pastor, welcomed the youth and guests. Sam Jordon gave thanks for the meal (the menu carried out the Valentine theme).

Special music was by the "Valentine Ensemble," youth girls, with Vic Bonner as guitarist and Angie Rhodes as pianist. They sang "The Way That He Loves."

Victor Bonner III introduced the

speaker, Ed King, pastor of Moundville Church, Moundville, Ala.

King enlarged on the theme "Sharing Christian Love," bringing out ways youth can share this. Randy Terry, sophomore at the University of Alabama and a member of the Million Dollar Band, sang. Randy Free, Tuscaloosa, Ala., gave his personal testimony and listed ways youths can share their witness.

A movie was shown from the Moody Institute of Science, "Time Against Space."

Lisa Bonner expressed appreciation to all who made the fellowship possible.

The pastor stated that Ed King would be with the church the first week of April for revival services.

Julian Thompson led the closing prayer. There were 21 in attendance.

Uniform Lesson

Unity In Christ

By Larry Kennedy
First, Laurel
Ephesians 4:1-3

King Louis XIV of France is often called the Sun King. During the seventeenth century when he reigned for seventy-two years, his throne was the focal point of interest for most Europeans. Believing in pomp and splendor, he built the palace of Versailles as his "place" of entertainment and pleasure. He imposed on it a code of etiquette that was as rigorous and intricate as that of an oriental despot.

Louis XIV put much emphasis on dress, and the court at Versailles was governed by a strict code of dress. At times the King wore a diamond-encrusted robe valued at 25 million dollars. The desire to be the best dressed at Versailles was so intense that many wealthy families bankrupted themselves to meet the courts' standards of dress.

The Bible has something to say about the garments a Christian is to wear. These are spiritual garments that manifest themselves in Christian character. When properly worn these garments help to maintain unity within the body of Christ. What are the garments of a well-dressed Christian?

I. Humility

To the Greek-Roman world humility was a sign of weakness; however, to the Christian humility was a sign of strength, and it indicated a closeness to God. To the Christian mind, humility was the mark of a man who was putting God and others first in his life. The humble man was the person who understood the command: "You shall love the Lord with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself."

II. Gentleness

In our day gentleness or meekness is often used to describe a person who is a coward or a sissy. It is usually associated with a person who is soft and easily pushed around. In the time of Paul this word had an entirely different meaning.

The word gentleness was used to describe a wild horse that had been tamed and domesticated. The horse was still strong and powerful, but his power was under the control of the rider. The Christian is to be strong, but his strength is guided by the Spirit of God.

The word gentleness was also used to describe a person who was teachable.

Greek professors often described their best pupils as men of gentleness. By that statement they meant that these pupils were willing to learn from others and were receptive to new ideas. The Christian should be known for a spirit that indicates that he is willing to be taught by God.

III. Patience

Patience or long-suffering is another garment that every Christian is to wear. This word occasionally was used to describe a person who was able to be strong in the midst of difficult or tragic circumstances.

Donnie Mackaye is a very special nineteen year old. At Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, he is considered to be the star patient. He was born without a right foot and because of bone cancer he lost his left leg. Over the years he has had 12 major operations. Refusing to indulge in self-pity, he learned to use an artificial foot and leg. In high school he was an outstanding punter on the football team, and he even learned to play tennis. He recently graduated with honors from high school and is now making plans to enter law school. Donnie knows something about patience.

Most of the time this word "patience" was used to describe a person who knew how to ignore malicious people. A patient man was one who never tried to overcome evil with evil.

IV. Forbearance

Another garment of the well-dressed Christian is forbearance. This word was often used to describe a person who refused to retaliate when he was insulted or injured. It is not always easy to wear the garment of forbearance.

In the 1800's Seaborn McKelva Cole was a very colorful preacher in Webster County, Mississippi. Before his conversion and call to preach, he had the reputation of being a great fighter. It was a reputation that he could never leave in the past. One morning near the Cumberland store Cole was approached by two young men who informed him that they were going to give him a good beating.

The first young man stepped forward and hit him in the jaw, knocking him to the ground. Cole got up, dusted off his pants, and turned his cheek in anticipation of another blow. The second young man quickly stepped forward and knocked him to the ground

again.

Cole got up a second time and said, "The Bible says if a man hits you on one cheek, you should turn the other; however, it does not say anymore after that." He then proceeded to give those two young men a beating they never forgot. Cole had difficulty wearing the garment of forbearance.

A politician who was running for office was informed by his aides that the opposition was saying slanderous things about his character. The aides wanted to know what he was going to do. The politician said, "Years ago I had an old dog that would always howl at a full moon. As long as he lived, he howled at every moon he ever saw."

His aides said, "Wait just a minute. What does a howling dog and a moon have to do with all the evil that is being said about you?"

The politician responded, "My dog howled, but the moon kept right on shining. Let my enemies howl, but I am simply going to shine."

Missionary News

John and Nell Smith, missionaries to Indonesia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1115 Palmyra St., Jackson, Miss. 39203). They are natives of Brookhaven.

Milton and Nannette Lites, missionaries to Taiwan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 427, Taipei 100, Taiwan, Republic of China). Before they were appointed in 1969, he was music director at First Church, Picayune, Miss.

Dorothy Latham, missionary to Brazil, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 226, 69000 Manaus AM, Brazil). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Rosedale.

Juanita Johnston, missionary to Taiwan, has returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 27-24, Taichung, Taiwan 400, Republic of China). Born in Mobile, Ala., she also lived in Yazoo City, Miss.

By Joe McKeever
First, Columbus
Romans 7

Last year I sat with Dr. Charles Myers and Dr. Larry Kennedy discussing how we had all preached different messages from the same Scripture.

In Exodus 33, God shows Moses His backside. An intriguing thought. One of us saw this as God's willingness to help us have faith at any cost, another as an insight into the glory of God which in its fullness overwhelms man, while the third used it to prompt a study of those things God puts behind himself.

Who was right? In each case God's truth was preached. We must guard against the temptation to claim only one interpretation of Scripture as the correct one so long as they do not conflict.

Romans 7 is a case in point. Scholars debate just what it's all about. Some say it is autobiographical, that Paul is describing his pre-Christian life. Others say this defeated person must be a carnal Christian. A third interpretation calls it a reality for every Christian, the ever-present weakness of the flesh.

Look at chapters 5 through 8 of Romans. Anders Nygren has picked out a phrase from each chapter that summarizes its message:

Chapter 5 — Free from wrath (5:9)

Chapter 6 — Free from sin (6:7)

Chapter 7 — Free from the law (7:4)

Chapter 8 — Free from death (8:2)

Each chapter ends by directing our attention to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our freedom in each case results from His death on Calvary and subsequent resurrection.

Romans 7 deals with the inner invisible warfare which every Christian knows so well. It shows the doom and frustration of any life when the "Big I" prevails.

Obviously, this applies to the unsaved as well as to Christians who live according to the flesh, trusting only in themselves, rather than in God.

Romans 7 speaks to the narcissistic emphasis in our present culture. I refer to the "Me-first" plague that has inflicted itself on us through the television and books galore. We're told to pull our own strings and to intimidate others for fun and profit.

Such thinking causes a lot of people to burn the bridges which extend to the world around them and live as an is-

land. Such independence is wrong.

Our goal for our children ought not to be to lead them from dependence on parents to independence. Rather, we must bring them from dependence on us to dependence on Christ.

One man boasted of being "captain of my own ship, master of my own destiny." To that, another replied, "Don't look now, captain, but your ship is sinking!"

Now, let's get to chapter 7 of Romans.

I. The Illustration Of Marriage 7:1-6

To show how we are free from the law (Garner Ted Armstrong, take note), Paul compares it to a marriage where one partner has died. The mate is therefore released from the marriage vows.

Who died? Paul says we did — in Christ.

II. The Identification Of The Law 7:7-14

Is it good or bad, this Old Testament code of laws, commandments, rules and rituals? Since it deepened our consciousness of sin, may we conclude it is therefore harmful and sin?

No — since I couldn't have been saved without the knowledge of sin which it brought (7:7).

The law makes sin come alive for us (verse 9) and thus results in death (verses 10, 11). So, it is bad, right?

No — as the expression of God's will and the instrument of His mercy, the law is both holy and good (7:12, 13).

Furthermore, the law is spiritual (verse 14). Unfortunately, being flesh — that is, mortal man — I cannot hope to keep it.

III. The Inside Story Of All Of Us 7:14-25

Let's pick out three statements. First, I am not capable alone of living right (7:18). This speaks directly against our humanistic tendencies. As in II Corinthians 3:5, Paul declares that we are not sufficient for our own needs. Our sufficiency must be of God.

Secondly, our problem is the evil within us. It's not the devil who makes us do the things we do (except possibly on rare occasions). It's our sinful nature.

In order to create chaos on the freeway, it's not necessary to put a bunch of maniacs behind the wheels of cars. Well-meaning drivers can do the job so long as the steering mechanisms have been tampered with. That's what sin has done to us.

As Jesus pointed out, man's defilement comes from the evil inside him — not from foods he may eat.

Thirdly, we do have a hope, Jesus Christ. Things are not as hopeless as they sometimes seem. Christ alone can deliver us from bondage to wrath, sin, the law and death. Romans 8 goes into details on Christ's provision for our freedom.

So, the way to live for Christ is the way you came to Christ — by faith and trust in the Lord.

A lady phoned me one day to ask help in "straightening out" a member of our church whose doctrine was faulty.

"She believes that after a person is saved, they still sin! Give me some Scriptures to make her see the light, that the old nature is gone when the Lord saves us."

Imagine her surprise when she learned I sided with her "ignorant" friend. Suddenly, she was not nearly so interested in hearing me line up Scripture after Scripture in defense of my point of view.

It turned out that she belonged to a "perfectionist" denomination, and had called me only because her pastor was out of town.

The lady's mistaken doctrine is not a harmless mistake. It misinterprets many texts and overlooks others. Promising perfection to Christians, it leads them to unreal expectations and compounds guilt when they fall short. As a result, it's not uncommon for many Christians to have emotional breakdowns.

Therefore, we do well to explain to new believers the inner conflict they will soon experience. They should learn this does not mean they are not saved; it demands that they learn to draw from the new source of life and strength within them — the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

West Hartford, Conn. (RNS) — A special worker specializing in work among former cult members told a B'nai B'rith meeting here that Jewish youths are especially susceptible to cult recruitment. William Goldberg, director of social and rehabilitation services for Rockland County, N. Y., said he estimates that as many as 40 per cent of Unification Church members and 50 per cent of Hare Krishna members are Jewish.